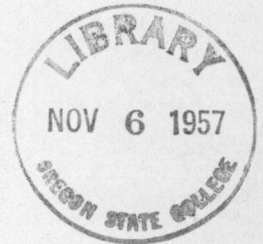


A Chronological History  
of  
Clubs, Organizations, Etc.  
Promoting Forestry  
and  
Forest Fire Protection  
In Oregon  
by  
William W. Woodworth



An exceptionally  
poor thesis, accepted  
only to permit Woodworth  
to obtain a commission  
in army  
W.C.

A Thesis  
Presented to the Faculty  
of the  
School of Forestry  
Oregon State College

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Bachelor of Science  
January 1942

Not  
Approved:

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Professor of Forestry

I wish to acknowledge the invaluable assistance rendered me in securing the material for this thesis by Dean Mason, Professor McCulloch, Mr. T. T. Munger, Mr. C. C. Scott, Mr. J. B. Woods, Mr. McDaniels and Mr. Lynn F. Cronemiller.

## FOREWORD

Slowly man begins to look about him and to recognize that he has willfully wasted a great deal of the timber resource that was his upon conquest of a new land. Until now there remains a last stand to be made to protect and prolong the life of usefulness of our forest in Oregon and Washington.

There have been numerous attempts by various men and organizations to in some way alleviate and remedy the conditions in Oregon so that our children may have at their disposal and in their care, a modified form true, but still a forest resource upon which to draw for their life and living. Herein is contained a listing and dating of such important men and organizations as have forewarded, bettered and prolonged the life of our forests.

Within the annals of history there have been many organizations promoting forest fire protection. The first, other than the individual settlers in their plantings to secure more land for their homesteads, is the Mazamas, who organized in 1894. A group of people interested in mountain climbing and appreciating the forests for their beauty included in their preamble a pledge to lessen the forest fire evil:

"The objects of this organization shall be the exploration of snow peaks and mountains, especially those of the Pacific Northwest; the collection of scientific knowledge and other data concerning the same, the encouragement of annual expeditions with the above objects in view; the preservation of the forests and other features of mountain scenery so far as possible in their natural beauty and grandeur of the mountain scenery of the Pacific Northwest." (The Forest Patrolman, Jan. 10, 1920).

On October 6, 1896, the Oregon Forest Association was organized, but did not prove to be too effective due to the fact that forest protection was just now starting to get public notice as a very necessary object in the vast forests of Oregon, therefore this attempt did not prove too successful.

In 1904 the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company started a policy by which they apportioned fire protection costs and work between themselves and other cooperating companies, no doubt the forerunner of the present-day Fire Patrol Associations. (Forest Patrolman, Jan. 10, 1920).

In 1905 the Forestry Department was moved and placed in charge of the Department of Agriculture and promoted on a much larger scale. During this period much legislation was passed to advance forest interests.

In Oregon they created Forest Fire Warden service, during the "dry seasons," slashings to be burned under permit only, penalty provided for setting forest fires, or operating engines without spark arresters during "dry season" and fire rangers authority to arrest. (Progress of Forestry In 1905, Quincy R. Croft; Reprint From Department of Agriculture Yearbook, 1905).

During 1906 the Oregon Forest Association was reorganized and published as its objectives: etal

1. A campaign of publicity for the purpose of educating the people as to the great economic value of the forests of the state.

2. An awakening of our people to the necessity and importance of legislation on behalf of the forests of our state.

3. A public sentiment in favor of conservative forestry and forest protection.

4. An intelligent state forestry program.

(The Oregon Forester).

This organization was as a whole conceived by some of the more progressive foresters of the time and the outstanding timber holders, who began to realize that fire was annually destroying more timber than the combined total cut of them all. They published "The Oregon Forester," which had a limited life of three to four years.

During the year 1907 and 1908, as people realized more and more the necessity of forest fire protection, small protective associations were set up over the state, but due to the checkerboard pattern of timber ownings these associations

found they could not adequately protect their holdings, as the block of timber next to theirs chances are was not protected. So it was during this time that the "Compulsary Patrol Law" was passed making it necessary for all timber owners to protect and patrol their holdings or have it done.

Now the need was felt for an organization that would bring together all the problems of Forest Fire Protective Associations, state, federal and private forest interests; so the "Western Forest Conservation Association" was formed with E. T. Allen, Secretary Manager, and C. S. Chapman as District Forester.

The Association was brought about largely at the instigation of the Weyerhauser Timber Company and included all patrol agencies, State Forester, private and federal forest interests, publishing the "Western Fire Fighter's Manual," designing and distributing educational posters, and doing much promotion of education and research. (T. T. Munger).

In 1909 the "Oregon Forest Fire Association" was formed as a clearing house for these smaller associations under the direction of C. S. Chapman, then District Forester (now Regional Forester). This organization had as its purpose: the lobbying, holding meetings for small associations and doing much of the early educational work. (T. T. Munger).

As a step toward fire protection and the first recorded county association, Polk County in 1910 perfected a tentative organization. (Annual Report of the State Forester-1910).

During this same year there was a cooperative organization for forest fire protection in Coos and Klamath Counties, and functioned admirably as one of the early attempts at cooperative fire protection. It was called the Coos County Fire Patrol Association, embracing 300,000 acres and employing twelve patrolmen. (Annual Report of the State Forester-1910).

In 1911 the State Board of Forestry was set up to act as a guide, council, and advisory board to the State Forester, also to correlate the different interests that utilize the forest and the forest products. The first Board of Forestry was made up of:

Governor Oswald West. . . . .	Chairman
George W. Peavy . . . . .	Representing O.A.C.
A. T. Buxton. . . . .	Representing O.S. Grange
George H. Cecil . . . . .	Representing U.S.F.S.
L. S. Hill. . . . .	Representing Ore. & Wash. Lumber Mfg. Assoc.
Dan R. Smythe . . . . .	Representing Ore. Wool Growers Association
A. P. Sprague . . . . .	Representing Oregon Forest Fire Association.
F. A. Allen . . . . .	State Forester
E. O. Siecke. . . . .	Deputy Forester

This first Board is all that shall be mentioned in this paper with the exception of the change of State Foresters. The representation upon the Board remains basically the same and serves the same relative interests throughout. The Board exists by virtue of an Act passed by the State Legislature in 1907.



During 1911 the Jackson County Fire Patrol Association was formed and covered almost all of Jackson County, employing twelve patrolmen.

The United States Government during 1911 passed the Week's Law which provided for aid from the United States Government for the states to help in the fire protection of the forest. It also made for a closer correlation of state and United States Government forest lands and their protection policies. (Annual Report of the State Forester-1911).

1912 saw an increase in the County Fire Patrol Associations with Linn County forming the Linn County Patrol Association employing twenty-one wardens; Douglas County forming the Douglas County Fire Patrol Association employing twenty-three wardens; Western Lane County formed the Western Lane County Fire Patrol Association embracing 480,000 acres and employing one warden and eight patrolmen; Columbia County formed the Columbia County Fire Patrol Association, protecting 360,000 acres, and employing two wardens and eighteen patrolmen; Clackamas and Marion Counties combined to form the Clackamas-Marion Fire Patrol Association protecting 400,000 acres, and employing one warden and eight men. (Annual Report of State Forester-1912).

1913 was perhaps the year during which the most Patrol Associations were formed, with Baker and Grant Counties forming the Baker County Fire Patrol Association, protecting 221,200 acres of Baker County and 23,700 acres of Eastern Grant County; Clatsop County formed the Clatsop County Fire Patrol Association;

Deschutes County formed the Deschutes County Fire Patrol Association protecting 121,813 acres; Josephine County formed the Josephine County Fire Patrol Association protecting 240,000 acres; evolving from the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company and other cooperating companies, the Eastern Lane County Fire Patrol Association was formed; Lincoln County formed the Lincoln County Fire Patrol Association protecting 98,180 acres of forest land; Polk County formed the Polk County Fire Patrol Association protecting 89,731 acres; the Union-Wallowa Fire Patrol Association was formed by Union and Wallowa Counties embracing 119,000 acres.

In 1913 the United States Legislature passed the "Compulsory Fire Patrol Law" which made it compulsory that all private lands must be patrolled and protected. After the passing of this law there was formed the John Day District Patrol Association, made up of Western Grant, Wheeler, Umatilla, and Morrow Counties; and in 1914 the Central Oregon Fire Patrol Association comprised of Jefferson, Crook, and portions of Lake and Klamath Counties.

Immediately after the war Oregon tried the use of airplanes in fire protection and continued on for four or five years finally disbanding it as the telephone, radio, and roads improved to displace it almost entirely.

In 1919 the Western Forest Conservation Association started the publication on August 20 of the "Forest Patrolman," which continued until December 15, 1927. The Forest Patrolman was a pamphlet magazine that advanced the new and re-expressed

the old ideas of forestry in general and dealing especially with the problem of Western Forestry. (The Forest Patrolman, August 26, 1919).

1920 saw the division of the Union-Wallowa Counties Fire Patrol Association into a separate Association for each county namely, the Union County Fire Patrol Association, and the Wallowa County Fire Patrol Association. (Annual Report of the State Forester-1920).

James E. Brockway states in an article of "The Forest Patrolman-1920" that "the Boy Scouts of America have contributed greatly in the training of people in fire protection through the teaching about the forest and its protection."

Also in 1920 C. J. Buck published a pamphlet on "Public Campgrounds in Forest Protection and Conservation," and states his views upon why the use of public campgrounds has a tendency to cut down upon the number of fires caused by campers.

In 1924 the Wallowa County Fire Patrol Association was turned over to the state, and run from then on through the State Forester Office.

To encourage the practice of forestry on private and state lands the United States Congress passed the Clarke-McNary Act. (Annual Report of the State Forester-1924).

Also during the year 1924 the Northwest Forest Experiment Station was started under the direction of Thornton T. Munger, and has since done a great deal to further the cause of forest fire protection in Oregon, as well as conducting valuable experiments in related forestry problems. (T. T. Munger).

In 1925 the Board of Regents at Oregon Agriculture College made possible the purchase of 320 acres of forest land to use as an experimental forest by the school of Forestry. This tract was later named after the then Dean of the Forestry School, Dean George W. Peavy, and designated as the Peavy Arboretum. (Forest Patrolman-1925).

In 1926 the State Board of Forestry authorized the State Forester to appoint a director of publicity in the field, to start the first really intensive forest Public Relations Campaign.

This publicity campaign was in line with a cooperative publicity plan participated in by the State Forest Department, The United States Forest Service, and the Western Conservation Association. During this campaign the "Showboat" (a panel delivery truck equipped with slides, posters and other exhibits) was purchased and used extensively on lecture tours conducted throughout the state. (Annual Report of the State Forester-1926).

In 1928 the United States Department of Agriculture got out "Miscellaneous Publication No. 20" published to aid the teachers of Oregon in advancing the cause of Forest Protection and Forest Education in the children of the country. (Miscellaneous Publication No. 20).

In 1929 the State Reforestration Law was passed to encourage the growth and protection of forest crops on land chiefly valuable therefore, and to provide a fair, stable, continuous tax revenue for such lands.

In 1930 F. A. Elliot died and Lynn F. Cronemiller was elected as State Forester.

May of 1930 the State Forester's office representing the State Board of Forestry started the publication of the "Forest Log," a monthly pamphlet, representing the various groups and organizations having an interest in the forests of Oregon. (Annual Report of the State Forester-1930).

During 1931 4-H Forestry Club Work was started and has ever since been one of the main factors in the education of children in the proper attitude of the use and value of our forests. (Annual Report of the State Forester-1931).

1933 saw the United States Congress pass the Bill providing for the formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps, which has done much toward lessening the loss from fire, as well as by preventing a great many fires by cleaning up along roadways, building fire breaks, and building campgrounds for the use of the general public. The Civilian Conservation Corps has been authorized to extend until 1943. (U.S.C.C.C. Forest Publication-1933).

1936 J. W. Ferguson was elected as State Forester to succeed Lynn F. Cronemiller.

In 1936 the School of Forestry started the radio program "Foresters In Action," a program based primarily on the mythical antics of Paul Banyun to advance the cause of Forest Fire Protection. (Annual Cruise-1941).

In 1938 the Oregon Planning Board in a report to the Governor submitted a report on the Roadside Timber of Oregon, submitting their advice as to the protection of these areas.

Along the same lines as above in 1938 "The Oregon Roadside Council" under Jessie M. Honeyman was formed to try to make it possible for people to have along the highways of Oregon the bountiful timber that once made them so beautiful to view and drive along. (Who's Who in Region 6).

<sup>H.S.</sup> H. E. Rogers was elected in 1940 as State Forester to succeed J. W. Fergusen. *(Davis served before Rogers)*

Started in 1940 as a "Forest Fire Prevention Campaign" the now-called "Keep Oregon Green Association," headed by the more thinking men connected with Forestry in Oregon, did not really get under way until 1941, when it would seem an all out effort was started and a great deal of good public relations was accomplished. (C. C. Scott, Office of Oregon Fire Association).

In 1940 there was formed at Oregon State College in the School of Forestry the Press Radio Guild, an organization to aid in the meeting of the need for public education and conservation. They sponsor the program "Foresters in Action" as well as stressing public relations in forestry and articles on related subjects, (Annual Cruise-1941).

There are many other organizations which have done very much to advance the cause of Forest Fire Protection in Oregon

for whom no definite dates could be found, but nevertheless they have been of great value. Following is a brief listing of organizations found in Oregon taken from "Who's Who in Region 6":

The various Chambers of Commerce found in cities throughout the state, the Commercial Clubs, Kiawanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, and Lion Clubs; various Stockmen Associations; the various sportman organizations, such as Rod & Gun Clubs, etc. The Oregon Wildlife Federation has played a big part through their efforts to protect and increase the natural game throughout the country.

Mountaineering and Outdoor Clubs play a very important part in Forest Fire Protection and are patterned after the Mazamas Climbing Club. Names of these clubs are: The Angora Club in Astoria, the Chemakatan in Salem, the Crag Rats in Hood River, the Obsidians Inc. in Eugene, Trail Club of Oregon in Portland, and the Wy' East Climbers in Portland,

The Grange, while playing a minor role, have done a great deal to advance Forest Fire Protection in Oregon. The Western Forest and Conservation Association is the outstanding Conservation Association along forest fire protection work, but the Northwest Conservation League, and the State Federation of Women's Clubs have done much along this line also.

Now because of the present conflict between nations it should become even more desirable to have all people of our nation "forest minded," as, due to the high development of incendiary bombs, their use, and the susceptibility of our forests

to just such an attack. The aid of all citizens will be needed to safeguard our forests for posterity.



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